

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

*Mayor's Task Force
on the Status of
Women in Toronto*

Y. W. C. A.
RESOURCE CENTRE

SPECIAL ISSUE

newsletter

Vol 1/No 6

October 1974

CONFERENCE A SUCCESS ON WORKING WOMEN

Over 250 women participated in the conference on "Working Women" sponsored by the Mayor's Task Force on the Status of Women with co-operation from the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library on September 20 and 21.

The second floor mezzanine was filled with displays, on Friday night, from organizations and agencies concerned with women's issues, and over a hundred people took the opportunity to find out "what's happening" in the feminist movement in Toronto. Four films from the "Working Mother's" series produced by the National Film Board were presented in Committee Room 4, followed by brief descriptions of the services provided by the display groups. The displays remained for the Saturday session.

Saturday's events began with Grace Hartman, National Secretary-Treasurer of C.U.P.E. In her speech on the problems of working women in factories and offices, Ms. Hartman said, "As soon as we wake up to the fact that the overwhelming majority of women work because of economic necessity and not because they are bored or unfulfilled, the sooner we will make giant strides towards equality for all. That is why I am so deeply involved in the trade union

movement. We provide a mechanism for all workers -- men and women -- to exercise their collective power to bring about social and economic change." She was well received by the conference participants and some time was spent on questions before breaking into workshops.

Women & Day Care was chaired by Anna Thomas of the Day Care Organizing Committee; Women & Political Action chaired by Alderwoman Anne Johnston and Women & Labour Unions chaired by Alderwoman Dorothy Thomas were the morning workshops. During the lunch break, the Women's Self-Defence Centre presented a demonstration in Committee Room 3.

A panel discussion with Mayor David Crombie and Alderwomen Thomas, Eayrs and Johnston, started off the afternoon at which participants had an opportunity to question the panelists on their views on women's issues. There followed a repeat of the morning workshops with Alderwoman Elizabeth Eayrs chairing the Daycare Workshop. A summary by the workshop chairpersons gave the conference participants the resolutions from the workshops. The Task Force plans to act on all resolutions which came out of this conference. Further information on this action may be obtained from the Task Force office.

8th floor, east tower, city hall, toronto
367-7203

CONFERENCE DISPLAYS

The following is a list of those groups who participated in the conference with displays.

who provided resource material and printed our posters.

To all of these groups, the Task Force extends their sincere thanks for producing such a variety of information and such high quality displays. A special note of thanks goes to Metro Central Library,

Many participants told us how much they enjoyed this part of the conference, and we hope participating groups benefited from the displays as much as we did.

Canadian Housewives Register
219, 60 Southport Street
Toronto 536-1083
Rita Eggleton

Cdn Women's Educational Press
305, 280 Bloor St. W.
Toronto 962-3904
Frumie Diamond

Ctte. to Repeal the Abortion Laws
96 Gerrard St. E. 22nd Floor
Toronto. 863-9773
Sandra Fox

North York Birth Control & VD Info.
501, 2828 Bathurst St.
Toronto. 789-4541
Carolyn Egan

Y.W.C.A.
80 Woodlawn Ave. E.
Toronto. 961-8100
Mary Gomer

Baldwin Street Gallery
23 Baldwin St.
Toronto. 364-2630
Laura Jones

Dept. of Labour - Women's Bureau
400 University Avenue
Toronto. 965-1538/37
Angela McDougall

Secretary of State
55 St. Clair Ave. E.
Toronto. 966-6554
Nancy Lawand

Ministry of Community & Social Services
Communications Branch
Information Office
7th Floor, Hepburn Block
Queens Park, Toronto
965-7825
Linda Kirlis

Women's Yellow Pages
399 Sackville Avenue
Toronto. 923-9820/923-3340

Rape Crisis Centre
Box 6597, Station A
Toronto. 486-1456/366-1121
Carolyn Bode

Metro Toronto Central Library
214 College Street
Toronto. 924-9511
Kathy Muldoon

O.I.S.E. - Women's Kit & More
252 Bloor St. W.
Toronto. 923-6641
Margot Smith

Women's Self Defense Centre
12 Kensington Avenue
Toronto. 862-0414
Anna Hode

Planned Parenthood
63 Yorkville Avenue
Toronto. 961-8290
Michele Dore

Ontario Status of Women Committee
511 - 300 St. Clair Ave. W.
Toronto. 920-3366
Lorna Marsden

Canadian Volunteer Centre
344 Bloor St. W. Rm. 217
Toronto.
Lyn Clarke

(ctd. pg 4)

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE ON WORKING WOMENDaycare

There should be developmental and educational daycare services available to all children in the province, regardless of the geographic and/or economic status of the parents. Based on the above statement, the Task Force with the assistance of the Daycare Organizing Committee, is to prepare a brief to be sent to the appropriate parties. Further points to be studied in depth in the brief are:

- the problem of daycare for women who work irregular hours.
- the use of schools' excess space for daycare, and the problems of working mothers with school age children re lunch, after school hours and vacations.
- problems of communities with varying ethnic cultures and languages.
- subsidies for parents whose children attend privately run nursery schools and the need for an income scale to assess charges.
- the responsibility of corporations who hire parents
- the need for specialized government department on daycare.
- part-time daycare for non-working mothers, who also need some time away from children.
- improvement in Income Test for daycare subsidies.

The points brought forward indicate that there is a need for separate briefs to various agencies. For instance, the City regulations concerning the establishment of Daycare Centres appears to be prohibitive, and there is a necessity for coordination between the City departments. It was also suggested that the Task Force might run evening seminars on the establishment of Daycare Centres, and regulations governing income subsidies.

Labour Unions

The Task Force should work closely with the Labour Council's Committee of Working Women to increase the participation of women in their unions, to work closely to organize non-union employees, and should be able to answer inquiries on how to become unionized.

The Task Force should press for changes in the Labour Relations Act and any other legislation that hinders or prevents organizing into Unions and pressure the government (Ontario) to enforce the existing Labour Standards Acts, especially in areas relating to fair wages and physical working conditions.

The Task Force should address itself to the education of groups, particularly high school students, on the trade union movement and the theme and purpose of International Women's Year.

The Task Force should investigate the attitudes of women in organized labour, as well as the deterrents for fuller female participation in their unions.

The Task Force should initiate and promote a special project for International Women's Year.

The Task Force should approach City Council to take positive action regarding International Women's Year through the allocation of increased funds to the Task Force and make the Task Force a permanent committee of Council.

RESOLUTIONS - (cont.)Political Action

The Task Force, through its mailing list, contact groups and through the media, should be a vehicle for the dissemination of information regarding issues of particular concern to women, so they can be aware of these issues before they are discussed by City Council and School Boards and there can be input from these women at the committee level.

The Task Force should produce a series of educational sessions on the basic facts of politics as a career, one session being a role playing session or mock council meeting.

The Task Force should prepare and publish a review of municipal candidates views on issues of major concern to women, such as Day Care, Birth Control, Salary and Job Reviews, and Legal Rights.

SUNDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES

The Toronto Waffle Women's Group and the Toronto Waffle Educational Committee present a Sunday Evening Public Lecture Series on Women in Canadian Society.

Topics will be as follows:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Oct. 27 | The Women's Movement in Canada |
| Nov. 3 | Women in the Canadian Economy |
| Nov. 10 | Women in Trade Unions |
| Nov. 17 | Women in the Social Movements of Québec |
| Nov. 14 | The Family & Socialization |
| Dec. 1 | A Strategy for Women's Liberation in Canada |

The Lectures will be held at 252 Bloor St. West at 7:00 pm. A series ticket is \$9.00 and tickets for single evenings are \$2.50. For details write to 678 Broadview, No.209, Toronto. 463-1345.

CONFERENCE DISPLAYS - (cont.)

Mountain Moving Theatre
137 George Street
Toronto. 363-8021/921-9091
Philinda Masters

Women in Transition
374 George Street
Toronto. 967-5227
Sandra Lee

Right to Life
6 Hillock Place
Scarborough. 293-4157
Helen Canning

Women's Bookstore
12 Kensington Avenue
Toronto. 862-0414
Pat Normington

Voice of Women
175 Carlton Street
Toronto. 925-0912/922-7480
Miriam May

PERSONNEL MANAGERS
REPRIMANDED FOR ETHICS

A U.S. personnel manager says equal opportunity laws would not have been necessary had the personnel function been operating professionally.

Thomas C. Winski, personnel officer, cities of Steubenville, Ohio and Weirton, West Virginia made the claim submitted to the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

He calls for a "proper system of licensing including revocable features for failure to comply with ethical standards", adding that such a system would have made equal employment opportunity laws unnecessary because establishment of ethical practices would have prohibited discrimination in hiring, promotion, etc.

(The Canadian Personnel Journal)

WILL WE SUCCEED IN OUR STRUGGLE?

The most often heard remarks from the recent conference on Working Women were:

1. We need more action...workshops on how to achieve results politically.
2. My level of understanding has been raised.
3. Where were the Press?
4. Where were the Aldermen?

At first glance, there appears to be no relationship between these remarks. Analyse them however, and you will see a definite course of action emerge as the only way women will obtain equality with men in today's society.

1. We need more action. Women who responded this way are already politically aware. They have been through the often traumatic experience of consciousness raising. Sometimes they know how to achieve what they want, and sometimes not. They all know, however, that it can't be done alone.

2. Women who enjoyed the educational aspect of the conference are learning. For the most part, they have not been exposed to sex bias. They are beginning to see the problems, but are not yet ready to suggest solutions. Most need and want to learn more, and many will become effective agents of change in the future.

3 & 4. These two questions can be dealt with together. The aldermen not present were men; the reporters not present, though many are women, must rely on male editors for their assignments.

The message? Do not rely on the press and the existing political structure for a solution to our problems. In advance of the conference, the Task Force blitzed the press with news releases, not once, but three times. All the aldermen were sent personal invitations to the conference. Posters advertising it were up in City Hall for one month.

A recent article quotes Jane Bigelow, Mayor of the City of London, as stating that it is essential for women to be trained in all levels of government in order that they may participate. Whether your method of operation is to get elected to office or to organize outside pressure, one thing is clear. In order to obtain results you must understand the problem. This involves reading, talking, attending seminars and obtaining information from those with more experience than you. At any meeting of women, experts emerge on a wealth of issues pertinent to women. Our own conference was attended by extremely knowledgeable women in many fields.

However, learning is a two way street. Someone must do the learning and someone the teaching. To succeed in our fight for equality we must understand that it will be a long, hard fight. Leaders become discouraged, and without a swelling rank of Leaders-in-training, many valuable feminist groups will simply cease to exist. Those who are currently leaders of pressure groups, must institute educational programmes for new recruits. There is no point in women arguing amongst themselves as to whether action or education is necessary. Both are necessary at the same time, and any woman who chooses to ignore her sister because she is not yet an activist, or is too radical, is not a true feminist.

The way to achieve goals is to get involved. If you are experienced in a particular field and not presently working in the feminist movement, or just simply interested, find out what group is working on your kind of project and sign up. If your time is limited, re-arrange your schedule. All of us can afford a couple of hours a week.

Next year is International Women's Year, a time for focus on our problems and a time for change. New Year's is a time for resolutions. What are you going to do?

COMMENTS FROM CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

"Terrific! I felt renewed and uplifted by the chance to communicate with and listen to dynamic women.

"Disappointing...workshops too vague and loose...what most women would have benefited from would have been to be organized into specific ongoing groups to fight for a particular issue.

"Have work groups of no more than 12 people and more of them. More frequent sessions and with more localized geographically or more specialized as to topic.

"Where were the Press?

"Enjoyed the conference very much and hope there are more.

"Where the hell were the rest of the aldermen?

"I would have liked to have seen better representation of working class and immigrant women.

"Love the idea of role-acting council debate to teach mechanics of political debate.

"My awareness of how to take action politically has been raised. I wish we'd dealt more with how to be politically effective... and still have time to eat, work and sleep."

There isn't room here to print all the comments received and this is a random sampling. We apologize to those of you whose remarks are not printed or have been condensed. The overwhelming majority of participants reported that they enjoyed the conference and all made valuable suggestions for improvement.

More conferences, workshops and evening seminars were requested on a variety

of topics and many women wanted indepth sessions on the conference subject matter. Political education and political action seminars were the most often requested. Following is a list of some other suggested topics:

Women in schools (sexism in texts, training)

Feminist History

Child Care

How to organize a Union from Within

How to unite groups

How to use existing structures

Lack of Media coverage and what to do about it

Insurance, pensions, credit

The Task Force members were pleased at the response to the conference. The attendance at some of the workshops was a little larger than the ideal for a good working group, but the sessions seemed to operate effectively. Much of the success of the conference was due to the participants. The women who attended asked intelligent, well presented questions and formulated well thought-out observations on the issues. The focus was kept on the definition and solution of working women's problems and no-one attempted to use the conference as a forum for their own individual grievances.

The Scarborough Mental Health Council is offering a Training Session for Group Discussion Leaders in cooperation with the Y.W.C.A., the Scarborough Public Library and the Volunteer Centre of Metro Toronto, on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 23 & 24, 1974, from 9:15 am to 3:00 pm, at St. Peter's Anglican Church, 776 Brimley Road. Babysitting will be provided. The session is free, but advance registration is necessary. Attendance limited to 50 people. Please register by phoning Mrs. Collingwood at 291-1991.

TASK FORCE BRIEF ON VENEREAL DISEASE GOES TO BOARD

The Task Force Venereal Disease Committee will submit its brief to the Toronto Board of Health on October 1. The brief, authored by Department of Public Health Employees calls for sweeping changes in Venereal Disease programmes conducted by the City.

The Toronto Board of Health, in a special meeting earlier this summer, issued figures indicating venereal disease in Toronto has more than doubled in the past 6 years and made recommendations to the Board of Education for combatant programmes.

The Task Force brief recommends establishment of a Task Force on Venereal Disease in the City of Toronto, to be staffed by specially trained community organizers, and information officers. The report further recommends advanced in-service training for Department of Public Health personnel.

A major recommendation of the brief calls for a full-scale public education programme utilizing mass media. Professional public relations firm would be contracted to produce billboards, posters, radio, and television messages alerting the public to the obscure nature of Venereal Diseases, the signs and symptoms, and the importance of contact follow-up and continued medical supervision. The report recommends that the Board of Health carry its media campaign through the use of posters in subways, buses, streetcars, public washrooms, community centres, recreation centres, hospitals, steam baths, bars and clubs, libraries, theatres, and railway stations.

The report also recommends that an extended service to the public be made available through the use of a mobile unit which would tour neighborhoods, and also be used at the Canadian National Exhibition, Ontario Place, Industrial

sites, shopping plazas, the Yonge Street Mall, rock concerts, etc.

In a controversial report presented at the Board of Health meeting on September 9, Dr. George Moss, Medical Officer of Health, recommended a cut-back in trained staff in the Venereal Disease Section of the Department of Public Health. The cut-back would result in a saving of \$11,395 per annum for the department.

Task Force committee member Nancy Mills, said, "In light of the new statistics which indicate venereal disease will reach crisis proportions in 1975, I don't see how replacing skilled and experienced staff with employees with a lesser degree of professional training will help solve the problem in this city. Maybe saving \$11,395 means something to Dr. Moss, but the loss of skilled professional help means a great deal more to the citizens of Toronto."

COME TO OUR MEETINGS!!!

The Task Force Executive Committee meets every other Thursday evening at 7:30 pm at City Hall. The meetings are open to the public and we are anxious to be approached by groups of women who feel they have an idea or a project that could benefit the women of Toronto. The Committee is willing to do all it can to aid these groups in struggling through the bureaucracy of City Hall.

If you would like to approach the Task Force Executive Committee, please call the Task Force office, tell us a little about your project, group, or problem and ask to be put on the next meeting's agenda. Locations of the meetings can be obtained at the City Hall information desk. We look forward to talking with you.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF TORONTO

Planned Parenthood of Toronto believes that every citizen has the right to reliable information concerning birth control methods and services. To ensure this right, they make available speakers, literature, workshops, small groups and individual counselling to the community, free of charge.

In addition to the birth control information, booths at the C.N.E., City Hall, University of Toronto, etc. in the last two weeks alone, through telephone, personal counselling and speaking engagements they have discussed birth control with over 450 members of the community.

Pregnancy counselling is available for any woman who needs to discuss an unplanned pregnancy. They explain the alternatives available to her and help her decide on a reliable method of contraception for her future use.

Both their birth control and pregnancy counselling services are used by doctors, public health departments and other agencies throughout the city.

Anyone can reach their volunteer counsellors at 961-8290 from 9 am to 9 pm six days a week.

JOB-STEREOTYPING RESULTS IN LOW PAY FOR ONTARIO WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS

Toronto (CPA) - Job-stereotyping, which results in women getting the low-paying jobs, is so bad in the Ontario Public Service that 84.3 per cent of the low-pay jobs are now filled by women.

Laura Sabia, chairwoman of the Ontario Status of Women Council, who revealed the figures, said that she is "appalled".

Some 2,697 employees make under \$6,000 yearly, and 84.3 per cent of them were women. Those earning between \$6,000 and \$9,999 divided about equally -- 51 percent of them were female.

But the \$10,000 to \$14,000 income bracket showed only 14.1 per cent women, and positions with salaries in excess of \$14,000 were 92 per cent male.

"As the salaries go up, the women diminish", Mrs. Sabia remarked. "If this means rapping the government's knuckles, I suggest we do it."

There are 25,994 women and 42,640 men employed in the Ontario Public Service.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS ...

An Executive Committee meeting was held on Monday, September 23rd to deal with current Task Force business. Deputations were heard from the Women's Self Defense Centre, who are on a fund raising drive and Baldwin Street Gallery who are being evicted from their current premises and are seeking new space.

The Executive Committee will take the following steps:

1. Support the Women's Self Defense Centre by providing a letter of endorsement from the Task Force to be used in grant applications.

2. Assist Baldwin Street Gallery by whatever means necessary. The Gallery is currently dealing with other representatives of the City and we will send letters of support where requested and speak personally with politicians where it is necessary.

Collation of Conference material and preparation of a brief recommending extension of the Task Force for 1975 are immediate tasks to be undertaken.

The Executive Committee also met with representatives of a group of women who are planning a month long festival on Women and the Arts during International Women's Year. The Task Force will assist them in holding a mini-conference to establish a planning committee.

CROMBIE MOVES ON JOB AUDIT

The Executive Committee of City Council at its meeting on September 18 voted to hire a consultant to advise City Council on the procedure to establish a Job Audit Programme for City of Toronto employees.

In a letter to the Executive Committee, Mayor Crombie wrote "...cases of (City) employees who feel that their positions are improperly classified have been brought to my attention. I would mention in particular the Public Health Nurses employed by the City of Toronto, who approached my staff in early spring regarding their salary ranges and job classifications."

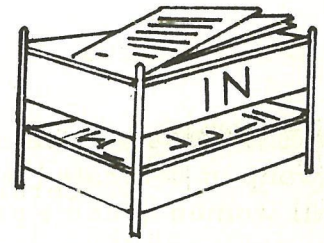
The Mayor's Task Force on the Status of Women in Toronto, in its brief this spring regarding sexual discrimination in salaries paid to City Public Health Nurses, recommended a full and professional job audit programme be adopted and made available to all City employees.

Mayor Crombie, in his letter, continued, "I am convinced that the commitment of City Council to undertake such a programme is a meritorious one, and of some urgency."

The Executive Committee voted in favour of the proposal, and directed the Commissioner of Personnel, Mr. R.G. Humphrey, to report on the hiring of a consultant to advise City Council on the procedure to establish a Job Audit Programme for City of Toronto employees.

NEWSLETTER IN DEMAND!

There have been a few requests from groups and individuals for back copies of newsletters, and we wish to advise that these can be easily supplied if you just call the office at 367-7203.

LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

Thank you for including our Local in your mailing for the 'Mayor's Task Force on the Status of Women in Toronto'.

We find your Articles in the newsletter interesting, and they contain valuable information.

We wish you success in your work.

Yours sincerely,

Russell G. Doyle
President
Local 43 - CUPE

WOMEN'S COUNSELLING COLLECTIVE

The Women's Counselling Collective is holding a series of talk/demonstrations for women counsellors, psychotherapists, and group workers.

These sessions are being held at the Macphail residence, (Y.W.C.A.), 389 Church Street, October through March at 8:00 pm.

The program schedule is as follows:

Oct. 7 Bioenergetics with Women
Nov. 15 Women as Therapists
Dec. 9 Sexuality and Intimacy
Feb. 10 Women in Primal Therapy
Mar. 10 Therapeutic Questions in Feminist
Counselling - a panel discussion.

Donation is \$2.00 for working women and \$1.00 for non-working women. For further information, please contact Sandy Stienecker at 961-8100.

WEN-DO - WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE

WEN-DO is a form of self defense that a group of dedicated women would like to see all women become proficient in. Their motto sums it up very well, "to make Toronto a city where it is unsafe to attack a woman alone".

Through their basic Classes at the North York Board of Education alone, they estimate they have taught 5,000 women and to their knowledge there have been no successful attacks on any of these persons, although they do have reports on record of some very unsuccessful assaults.

WEN-DO was first taught in Toronto 2 years ago by its originators, the Paige family. They felt there was a need for a course for women, which could be taught quickly and easily, and would provide defenses against the most likely attacks that women would be involved in. The police were consulted and have since been supporters of the course. The material was drawn largely from the Paiges' martial arts background; Ned holds a black belt in karate and a brown belt in Ju-Jitsu, Anne, his wife holds a brown belt in karate, Joy, their daughter, holds a brown belt in karate and Ken, their son, holds a black belt in karate.

The basic course consists of 4 lessons and includes defenses against purse snatches, rapes muggings, knife attacks, robbery and chokes as well as how to kick and punch effectively. All defenses where possible injuries are anticipated are taught in groups of three with one student acting as a safety monitor. They are proud that there have been no injuries in any classes.

There are no rules as to what can be used in WEN-DO. They teach what will be the simplest and most direct defense to any given attack.

Advanced classes are also offered for the woman who wishes to either go on to teach

or who wants to become more proficient. One cannot advance in WEN-DO without teaching in some capacity. An advanced student learns to spar and practices defense movements through cutta and Hen-shi-hos. Gradually the element of surprise becomes less important.

Basic classes are now taught at the Y.W.C.A., The North York Board of Education, Bathurst St. United Church and the Donvale Community Centre. At present there is no permanent location, or phone number. If you wish further information, please contact the Task Force office.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO LEGAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION (CANADA)

This organization is affiliated with The National Association of Legal Secretaries, and recently received a Charter to become the first Chapter of many, it is hoped, in Canada.

The objective of this Association is to raise the status of all legal personnel, to increase their knowledge and abilities and to gain them recognition as members of an acknowledged profession. This will be achieved by a continuing educational programme. Elsie E. Schwartz, a former legal secretary and author of Procedures for the Legal Secretary, now the instructor of a Legal Secretaries course at Humber College, will be assisting with the organization of these programmes.

Monthly dinner meetings will be held to announce programmes and discuss ideas and any new developments within the area of the law.

This is an Association that will be of immense benefit to all persons interested in a rewarding career as a Legal Secretary. For further information, call Vivienne Page at 361-1280.

FROM THE B.C. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ...

B.C. Education Minister Eileen Dailly announced August 28, 1974 the appointment of Reva Dexter as special consultant on sex discrimination in public education.

The position is a new one created to assist the Department of Education in removing sex bias in curriculum, programming and learning materials used in the schools and to facilitate cooperation with public schools and other public education institutions in dealing with problems of sex discrimination, Mrs. Dailly said.

Ms. Dexter will be an advisor to Provincial Curriculum Advisory Committees which are developing new courses and selecting textbooks and audio-visual materials. She will also act as a resource person for school boards or school personnel who request her assistance, by participating in workshops, seminars and staff meetings.

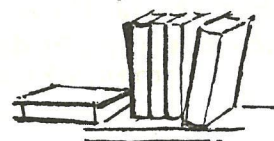
Under the direction of the Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination and the Department of Education she will assist in research studies and special projects and advise on program development work. In addition, she will act as a liaison with other Government Departments and agencies concerned with sex discrimination.

Mrs. Dailly said the new position would provide a professional approach which is needed to arrive at educationally sound solutions to the problems of sex discrimination in the schools.

Ms. Dexter has a wide background of training and experience in women's studies:

- a master of arts degree from Teacher's College, Columbia University, and undergraduate degrees from McGill and Sir George Williams Universities in Montreal.

- has coordinated women's studies for the University of B.C., worked as a group leader in women's studies at Simon Fraser University and been employed as a counsellor in the Vancouver public schools.
- has done a number of research studies on stereotype roles and sex discrimination practices, including a survey for the Status of Women Council.
- is an executive member of Vancouver Status of Women and president of a parent cooperative day care centre.

BOOK REVIEW

The Diviners by Margaret Lawrence, is a novel on the life of Morag Gunn, a woman at a crossroads in her life.

Living alone in rural Ontario and witnessing her daughter's struggle to achieve adult independence, Morag fights to continue her writing, haunted by ghosts from her personal and ancestral past. The story moves from the present day, when her daughter approaches the adult world, to Morag's recollections of her own, similar search for identity. Her search takes her from the small Manitoba town in which she grew up, across Canada to the Scottish Highlands and back again, through a marriage and divorce, the building of a career and the problems of living alone and raising a child.

Her experience emerges as that of all women fighting for independence and acceptance as an individual, and of all dispossessed people in search of their birthright. This novel is not publicized as feminist literature, but is a book that all feminists should read.

- Linda Torney

COURSES AVAILABLEHumber College Centre for Women

An all day Workshop on Divorce & Separation is being held on Saturday, November 2. Besides various speakers, there will be workshops in the morning on "Children-Their Needs & Concerns" and "Creative Problem Solving in Separation & Divorce". In the afternoon the workshops will be "Legal Aspects of Divorce & Separation", "Financial & Property Decisions & Concerns", and "So You're Going Back to Work". This all day session proves to be interesting and informative.

The Seminar fee is \$5.00 and Child Care will be provided for children age 4 - 10 yrs.

A Series of 6 afternoon sessions to consider family relationships and the extent to which the structures of society support the development of healthy, co-operative families, is being co-ordinated by the Family and Consumer Studies Department and The Centre for Women at Humber College.

Sessions will be every Thursday from October 17 to November 21 from 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm at the Richview Library, 1806 Islington Avenue. The fee for the course is \$15.00. For more information on both the above courses, phone the Centre for Women at 676-1200, ext. 541/2.

Ministry of Education

Correspondence Courses are available for those wishing to complete their education or gain business and language skills, through the Ontario Ministry of Education. Courses are being offered in Latin & Classical Studies, History & Social Services, Geography, French, German, English, and Business and Commerce and Elementary School courses.

For enrollment information and application forms, phone 965-2657 or drop in at 909 Yonge Street.

York University

The Centre for Continuous Education is offering a 3 Phase course on "The Law and You". This course is designed to help individuals and citizens groups become familiar with the Canadian legal system and the implications of the law with regard to their daily life. The courses will be held at Osgood Hall Law School of York University (Keele & Steeles).

Phase 1 runs from Oct. 9 to Nov. 27 for 8 weeks and meets on Wednesday from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. The subjects will be Family Law, Consumer Law, Criminal Law and Civil Liberties Law.

Phase 2 runs from Oct. 22 to Dec. 10 for 8 weeks and meets on Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Sessions will be on Immigration Law, Landlord - Tenant Law, Mental Health Law and Welfare Law.

Phase 3 will be a continuation of the subjects in Phase 1 with each considered in greater depth. Choose one of the course topics. They run simultaneously from Jan. 8 to Feb. 26 on Wednesday at 7:30 to 9:30 pm. All courses are open to the general public. For further information call 667-2525.

The Task Force Newsletter is prepared by the Public Relations Committee, and is issued monthly. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of every month. The Task Force reserves editorial control on all submissions. Joan McAbee-Editor
